CUP.21 9.29/58

DESCRIPTION
OF THE
HISTORICAL PICTURE
OF
LORD ST. VINCENT's VICTORY
OVER THE SPANISH FLEET,
OFF CAPE ST. VINCENT, ON THE 14th OF FEBRUARY, 1797;
IN WHICH IS COMMEMORATED
That unprecedented Inſtance of the Succeſs and gallant Conduct of ADMIRAL SIR H. NELSON, K. B.
Under the Patronage of the Sovereign.

THE event which this Picture commemorates, may juſtly be ranked in the firſt claſs of brilliant and glorious atchievements; as nothing can be more truly amiable than the able conduct and valour diſplayed on this occaſion, by the gallant Commander in Chief, *Admiral Sir John Jervis*, in defeating the Spaniſh Fleet, although ſo ſuperior in numbers; taking from them five Sail of the Line, and compelling the Admiral's ſhip of 126 guns to ſtrike her ſtandard, though ſhe afterwards effected her eſcape; the enemy having 25 Sail of the Line oppoſed to our 15 Sail.

Painting as well as Poetry requires an important and ſtriking incident; the Artiſt has therefore ſelected that unprecedented one of the bravery and ſucceſs of *Commodore Nelſon*, (in his Majeſty's ſhip the Captain, of 74 guns) in boarding and taking two Ships of the Line, one of 80, and the other of 112 guns—a circumſtance ſo unparalleled, and ſingularly brave as to reflect the higheſt panegyrick on the dauntleſs hero.

The point of time ſelected by the Artiſt is that in which *Admiral Nelſon* on the Quarter Deck of the Spaniſh Ship, San Joſef, of 112 Guns, receives the Sword of the venerable *Winthuyſen* from the hands of his ſecond Captain, *Don Thomas Delknnena*. The firſt Captain, who held the rank of a Brigadier, not daring to appear in the preſence of the hero, whom he had juſt oppoſed by firing ſmall arms during the deſperate and bloody conflict of boarding the San Nicholas, (the Admiral of which ſhip alſo loſt his life). A panic terror viſible in the conduct of the Second in Command certainly extended its influence to the remainder of the crew, as their own Enſign was ſtruck by *Captain Berry*, and one of our ſeamen; the latter of whom is repreſented as having brought it on deck, and the brave Captain in the act of informing the Admiral from whence it came, by energetically pointing to the Enſign and its late ſituation.

Lieutenant Pearſon, of the 69th Regiment, is ſeen informing *Admiral Nelſon*, that the Spaniſh Captain is delivering the Sword of his expiring Admiral, *Don F. Z. Winthuyſen*, who in this action loſt both his legs, and in the late war was brought Priſoner to England in the St. Margaret Frigate, deprived of his left arm.

Captain Noble is pourtrayed as having juſt fixed his eyes, with an amiable and generous pity, on the Admiral, whoſe diſtreſsful ſituation was ſo truly affecting. His firſt Lieutenant laments over him, "in all the manlineſs of grief"—and a faithful, affectionate Spaniſh Sailor ſolicits permiſſion from one of our Seamen (whoſe duty it was to have ordered him below) to remain near the perſon of his dying Commander, till his approaching diſſolution had taken place.

Lieutenant Withers reſts one foot upon the after-gun, which was unſhipped, and anxiouſly attends to what the Romiſh Prelate relates reſpecting the Fate of his Admiral. At the front of the poop to the right of the Picture is ſeen the Bell for the ſervice of the Prieſt, with the Boarding Pikes arranged alongſide of it, over which are the remains of the Mizen-maſt that had been ſhot away in the early part of the action.—One of the ſoldiers of the 69th Regiment is deſcending the Steps, and near him one of our jolly Tars *ſinging out* to the other Ships.

At the ſtern of the San Nicholas (to the left of the Picture) *Captain Spicer* appears in his ſhirt, communicating the awful alarm that the ſhip was on fire in ſeveral places below.

Admiral Nelſon's ſhip the Captain, is cloſe aboard the San Nicholas, with her ſpritſail-yard hooked into her mizen-rigging: *Captain Miller* and *Lieutenant Niſbet* are upon the head rail ordering *freſh hands* on board the Prizes.

The head of the ſhip, which was ornamented with the figure of a Captain, having been loſt *previous to the action*, the hardy tars replaced it by their emblem the Lion, *tearing* between his teeth and claws part of a Spaniſh Enſign.

The centre of the Picture exhibits *Lord St. Vincent's* ſhip, the Victory, engaged with the mountain of a ſhip the Santiſſima Trinidad, of 126 guns; alſo the Excellent and San Iſidro, Blenheim, Culloden and Prince George.

N. B. The Spaniſh Admiral's Sword was copied from the original, preſented by the gallant *Admiral Sir H. Nelſon* to the Mayor of Norwich, and is now placed in the Town Hall as a memorable trophy of ſo glorious an atchievement.

Mr. Orme begs leave to acknowledge his high obligation to *General Miranda*; to the Spaniſh Conſul; to *Captain Mendoſa*, and to the brave Admiral and Officers of the Captain for their very liberal exertions and communications.

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Key to Mr. Orme's Print & Picture, of ADM.L NELSON's Boarding the Spanish Ships, in L.D St. VINCENT's VICTORY.

No. 1, Capt.n Berry.
2, Adm.l Nelson.
3, Capt.n Noble.
4, Lieu.t Pearson 69.th Reg.t
5, Lieu.t Withers.
6, O Brien, a Spanish Priest.
7, Capt.n P. Spicer.
8, Lieu.t Josia Nesbit.
9, Capt. Miller.
10, Soldier of the 69.th
11, Fearney, an English Sailor.
12, Hooper, the Sailor who Struck the Spanish Ensign.
13, Ramsay, one of the Admirals Barge men.
14, Spanish Sailor.
15 Linaco Fone, the first Lieu.t (Spanish)
16 Don Francisco Xavier Winthuysen, the Spanish Adm.l
17 Don Tomas Delkennena, the Spanish Captain

Pub. at the British Naval & Military Gallery, Holles Street.